(d) what remedial measures have been taken by Government to ease the situation and to give relief to the copper industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) During the months of October to December 1988, there was a sudden spurt in the demand for copper on account of rising trend in prices of copper in the international market. With reduction in the import duty of copper with effect from 23-12-1988 from 95 per cent *advalorem* to Rs. 10,500 per tonne (basic duty) plus 30 per cent *advalorem* (auxillary duty) as well as declining trend in the international market, the demand for copper started declining in January, 1989. At present, both Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL), the sole indigenous producer, and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC), the canalising agency, have adequate stocks to meet the requirement of the actual users of the metal.

The total production of indigenous copper including toll smelted copper during 1986-87 1987-88 and 1988-89 (upto *January' 89) are indicated below:*

Year	Production (including toll-smelted copper) (In tonnes)
1986-87	44,563
1987-88	42,134
1988-89 (Apr '88—Jan '89)	46,830

Imports of copper by MMTC during the last 3 years are as follows:

	Imports (in tonnes)
1986-87	43,741
1987-88	80,525
1988-89	64,550 (Provisional)

Government are keeping a watch on availability of copper in the country in view of highly volatile and speculative nature of this commodity in the international market.

Development of Yamuna river for recreational activities

@2556. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan for the development of the Yamuna river in Delhi for recreational activities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) A study to examine possibility of channelising the river flow and conserving the maximum land mass for various uses has been entrusted by the DDA to the Central Water Power Research Station (CWPRS), Poona at an estimated cost of about Rs. 50 lakhs.

National Commission on wages, Income and Price Policy

@@2557. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a National Commission on Wages, Incomes and Price Policy with a mandate to give the country a realistic wage policy that will strike a proper balance between the wages in the organised and unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, by when?

@Previously Unstarred Question 1634, transferred from the 9th March, 1989.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1723, transferred from the 9th March, 1989.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) There is no such proposal. The question of formulation of a national wage policy has been considered from time to time at various forums. The matter was discussed by the Group of State Labour Ministers on the 23rd September, 1985 and the majority view was that it may not be feasible to formulate the national wage policy at this stage. In the Indian Labour Conference held on 25-26 November, 1985, it was decided that till such time a national minimum wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wages in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. These guidelines were circulated in July, 1987.

(b) Does not arise.

Storing of Hazardous chemicals by the Industrial Units

@2558. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Storing of Hazardous chemicals by the Industrial Units

(a) whether it is a fact that in more than 307 places in Indian cities and also in the countryside, hazardous chemicals have been stored without any protection as per the study conducted by the International Labour Organisation; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against the industries in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Based on the criteria laid down in the report of an expert deputed by the International Labour Organisation, 307 major accident hazard installations have been identified in the country upto December, 1988.

It is not correct to say that these units have been storing hazardous chemicals without any protection. The provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in factories as contained in the Factories Act, 1948, are required to be complied with by the management. By an amendment to the Factories Act, 1948, a separate chapter on "hazardous processes" was incorporated which provides for setting up of Site Appraisal Committees for grant of permission for initial location and expansion of existing factories involving a hazardous process, compulsory disclosure of information by the occupier, specific responsibility of occupier in relation to hazardous processes, preparation of on-site and off-site emergency plans, workers' participation in safety management, etc. The Act also lays down the permissible limits of exposure to chemical and toxic substances. The Act is enforced by the State Governments.

The Ministry of Labour is implementing an ILO Project on "Establishment and initial operation of major accident hazard control system in India". Steps are being taken under the project to strengthen the system of safety in installations posing Major Accident hazards.

Loss to NCCF on Import of Black Matpe

2559. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1870 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 1988 and state:

(a) whether the CAG in his latest report has pointed out serious irregularities in various import/export deals in NCCF which were initiated by the Deputy Manager (Imports) without prior approval of business Committee;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same Deputy Manager initiated again a fresh proposal in November, 1987 for import of Black Matpe from Thailand without any approval of the competent authority;

@Previously Unstarred Question 1658, transferred from the 9th March, 1989.